THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a), to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Constitution of Indo-American Commercial Alliance Board

6770. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-American Commercial Alliance Board has been tonstituwd as reported in the Hindustan Times of 5th May, 1995;

(b) if so, the areas on which two sides have initially agreed to focus at the forthcoming meeting fixed for June 19, 1995 in California;

(c) whether Commercial Alliance is also sponsoring conference in Information Technology opportunities in India; and

(d) if so, how far this Alliance will be useful to India and whether it will en-compass trade Association as well as large and small business particularly in food processing, cotton (knitted) yarn, iron ore etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Commercial Alliance will encompass trade associations as well as large and small business, focussing initially on the areas of power, information technology, transportation iufmtnicture and food proces*ing|packaging. On June 19, 1995, the Alliance is sponsoring a conference on information technology opportunities in India in Santa Clara, California, USA. The Alliance provides a framework for increased interaction between private sector enter-priies of both the countries for expanding business relations.

Export Performance of Extreme Fccul Product!

6771. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 5088 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th May, 1995 and state:

(a) what has been the export performance of these products for the last four years; and

(b) what is being done to step up the exports to of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Export performance of Extreme Focus Products for the last four years is as under :—

Year	Export (US$ Million)	Percentage growth
1991-92 . .	639.0	..
1992-93 . .	685.9	7.0
1993-94 . .	788.7	15.0
1994-95 (P) (April-Dec.) .	679.9	23.0

P= Provisional.

(b) Several measures comprising fine-[1] tuning of trade policy and procedural simplification, infrastructural improvements and institutional arrangements were taken by the Government to step up export of Extreme Focus Products. Important among there are introduction of unified market determined exchange rate system in 1993-94, reduction in import duty on specified capital goods from 40 per cent to 25 per cent, reduction in import duty on raw materials in the area of fiscal concessions, measures by RBI to increase availability of export credit at lower rates of interest, opening of Inland Container depots and Container Freight Stations and Institutional arrangements such *as* the setting